

Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction requirement is **improper** because it was made **after final action** rather than before final action. The issuance of a restriction requirement with respect to claims which have already been examined on the merits and finally rejected is **highly irregular**. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.143.

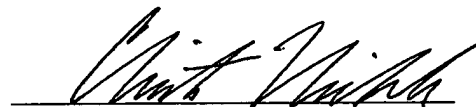
In conformity with 37 C.F.R. § 1.143, Applicants **provisionally** elect Group I, as defined in the Office Action (Claims 3-5 and 27-29), **with traverse** for the reasons set forth above.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages or credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on February 17, 2006 by Judy Paradoski